

The Washington Post

This Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by telephone May 16-19, 2013, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults, including landline and cell phone-only respondents. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish

The results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York.

Produced for the Washington Post by Capital Insight.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/19/13	51	32	20	44	10	33	5
4/14/13	50	27	23	45	10	35	5
3/10/13	50	29	21	46	11	36	4
1/13/13	55	32	23	41	8	33	4
12/16/12	54	33	21	42	9	32	5
11/4/12 RV	52	33	10	46	10	36	2
11/3/12 RV	51	33	10	47	10	37	2
11/2/12 RV	51	32	11	47	11	36	2
11/1/12 RV	50	31	11	48	11	37	2
10/31/12 RV	50	30	11	48	11	37	2
10/30/12 RV	50	28	12	48	12	37	2
10/29/12 RV	50	28	11	48	11	36	2
10/28/12 RV	51	28	11	46	11	36	3
10/27/12 RV	50	28	11	46	11	36	3
10/26/12 RV	51	29	10	46	10	36	3
10/25/12 RV	50	29	9	47	9	37	3
10/24/12 RV	50	29	10	48	10	38	3
10/23/12 RV	50	29	21	47	9	37	3
10/22/12 RV	50	30	20	47	10	38	3
10/21/12 RV	51	31	20	47	10	37	2
10/13/12	50	30	21	44	10	34	6
9/29/12	50	26	24	46	12	34	4
9/9/12	49	29	20	45	11	35	6
8/25/12	50	27	23	46	13	33	4
7/8/12	47	24	24	49	15	34	4
5/20/12	47	26	21	49	13	36	3
4/8/12	50	30	20	45	10	35	6
3/10/12	46	28	18	50	11	39	4
2/4/12	50	29	22	46	11	36	3
1/15/12	48	25	23	48	11	37	4
12/18/11	49	25	24	47	13	34	4
11/3/11	44	22	22	53	15	37	3
10/2/11	42	21	21	54	14	40	4
9/1/11	43	21	22	53	16	38	3
8/9/11*	44	18	26	46	9	37	10
7/17/11	47	25	22	48	14	35	5
6/5/11	47	27	20	49	13	37	4
5/2/11**	56	29	27	38	14	24	6
4/17/11	47	27	21	50	12	37	3
3/13/11	51	27	24	45	12	33	4
1/16/11	54	30	23	43	15	28	3

12/12/10	49	24	25	47	15	32	4
10/28/10	50	27	23	45	11	34	5
10/3/10	50	26	24	47	13	34	3
9/2/10	46	24	22	52	14	38	3
7/11/10	50	28	22	47	12	35	3
6/6/10	52	30	22	45	12	33	4
4/25/10	54	31	23	44	11	33	3
3/26/10	53	34	20	43	8	35	3
2/8/10	51	29	22	46	12	33	3
1/15/10	53	30	24	44	13	32	2
12/13/09	50	31	18	46	13	33	4
11/15/09	56	32	23	42	13	29	2
10/18/09	57	33	23	40	11	29	3
9/12/09	54	35	19	43	12	31	3
8/17/09	57	35	21	40	11	29	3
7/18/09	59	38	22	37	9	28	4
6/21/09	65	36	29	31	10	22	4
4/24/09	69	42	27	26	8	18	4
3/29/09	66	40	26	29	9	20	5
2/22/09	68	43	25	25	8	17	7

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2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

5/19/13 - Summary Table

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	op.
a. The economy	48	26	22	48	10	37	4
Items b and c held for release.							

Trend:

a. The economy

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/19/13	48	26	22	48	10	37	4
4/14/13	44	22	22	53	12	41	3
3/10/13	44	24	20	52	10	42	4
1/13/13	50	24	25	47	10	37	3
12/16/12	50	27	23	48	10	38	3
10/13/12 RV	47	26	21	51	10	41	2
9/29/12 RV	47	23	25	52	10	41	1
9/9/12 RV	45	24	21	53	8	45	2
8/25/12	44	20	23	54	12	42	3
7/8/12	44	21	23	54	13	41	2
5/20/12	42	20	22	55	11	44	2
4/8/12	44	23	21	54	12	42	2
3/10/12	38	20	18	59	9	50	2
2/4/12	44	23	22	53	11	41	3
1/15/12	41	19	22	57	11	46	2
12/18/11	41	17	24	56	13	43	2
11/3/11	38	18	20	61	13	48	2
10/2/11	35	17	19	61	13	48	4
9/1/11	36	15	21	62	15	47	2
7/17/11	39	18	22	57	15	43	3
6/5/11	40	20	20	59	10	49	2
5/2/11*	40	18	22	55	16	39	4
4/17/11	42	23	19	57	11	46	2

3/13/11	43	22	21	55	13	41	2
1/16/11	46	22	24	51	13	38	2
12/12/10	43	21	22	54	15	39	3
10/28/10 RV	44	21	23	54	15	39	3
10/3/10	45	22	23	53	13	41	2
9/2/10	41	20	21	57	13	44	2
7/11/10	43	20	23	54	13	41	4
6/6/10	50	26	24	49	12	37	2
4/25/10	49	24	25	49	10	39	2
3/26/10	45	23	22	52	12	40	3
2/8/10	45	22	23	53	15	38	2
1/15/10	47	22	24	52	13	39	1
12/13/09	46	23	24	52	12	40	2
11/15/09	51	26	25	47	12	36	2
10/18/09	50	29	22	48	13	35	1
9/12/09	51	28	24	46	13	33	2
8/17/09	52	27	25	46	13	33	2
7/18/09	52	29	23	46	10	35	3
6/21/09	56	28	28	41	13	27	3
4/24/09	58	31	28	38	13	25	4
3/29/09	60	34	25	38	12	26	3
2/22/09	60	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	6

*Washington Post/Pew Research Center

3. Do you think things in this country (are generally going in the right direction) or do you feel things (have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track)?

	Right direction	Wrong track	No opinion
5/19/13	39	57	4
1/13/13	39	57	5
10/31/12 LV	43	55	2
10/13/12 RV	42	56	3
9/29/12 RV	38	60	2
8/25/12 RV	29	69	2
7/8/12	33	63	4
4/8/12	33	64	3
1/15/12	30	68	2
11/3/11	22	74	3
9/1/11	20	77	3
6/5/11	32	66	2
1/16/11	38	60	3
12/12/10	31	67	2
10/28/10 RV	27	71	2
6/6/10	37	60	3
3/26/10	38	60	2
1/15/10	37	62	1
11/15/09	44	55	2
10/18/09	44	54	2
8/17/09	44	55	1
6/21/09	47	50	3
4/24/09	50	48	2
3/29/09	42	57	1
2/22/09	31	67	2
1/16/09	19	78	3
12/14/08	15	82	3
10/25/08 LV	13	85	2
10/11/08 RV	8	90	2
9/22/08 RV	14	83	3
8/22/08	19	78	2
6/15/08	14	84	2
5/11/08	16	82	2

1/12/08	21	77	2
11/1/07	24	74	2
6/1/07	25	73	2
1/19/07	26	71	3
11/4/06 RV	39	59	2
10/22/06	30	68	2
10/8/06	32	66	2
5/15/06	29	69	2
11/2/05	30	68	2
10/24/04 LV	41	55	4
4/18/04	42	57	1
4/30/03	52	46	2
9/26/02	43	53	4
2/21/02	54	42	4
2/14/99	55	41	4
11/1/98	55	43	2
8/21/98	57	40	4
7/12/98	50	45	6
4/4/98	55	41	4
1/31/98	61	34	5
1/30/98	61	34	5
1/19/98	44	50	6
8/27/97	39	57	4
6/8/97	37	60	3
3/9/97	34	62	4
10/17/96 RV	40	55	5
10/16/96 RV	42	53	5
10/15/96 RV	43	52	5
10/14/96 RV	44	51	5
10/13/96 RV	44	51	5
9/04/96 RV	40	54	6
8/21/96	28	67	5
6/30/96	26	70	5
3/17/96	27	70	3
1/21/96	27	66	6
1/3/96	21	77	3
4/5/95	23	73	3
1/4/95	27	68	6
10/31/94	27	69	4
7/20/94	26	70	4
3/27/94	28	69	3
1/23/94	31	60	10
11/14/93	25	69	6
8/8/93	26	71	3
6/20/93	26	71	3
4/26/93	27	71	2
3/11/93	36	57	7
2/28/93	37	59	4
1/17/93	31	63	6
12/14/92	35	60	5
10/27/92 RV	22	76	2
10/4/92 RV	18	78	4
6/7/92	14	83	3
4/9/92	16	81	3
3/11/92	18	79	4
1/15/92	19	78	3
11/10/91	24	72	4
10/29/91	26	71	3
8/27/91	31	60	9
7/28/91	30	67	3
6/2/91	39	57	4
4/9/91	42	51	7
2/26/91	58	39	3

1/27/91	49	48	4
10/14/90	19	79	2
9/9/90	36	60	4
8/20/90	35	60	5
7/24/90	37	60	2
5/21/90	39	60	2
3/26/90	44	53	2
2/4/90	49	48	3
1/16/90	48	49	3
5/23/89	42	55	3
3/16/89	46	52	2
1/16/89 LV	51	46	3
10/25/88 LV	49	46	6
9/27/88	48	44	8
7/11/88	40	56	4
5/25/88	35	59	6
3/21/88	40	56	4
1/23/88	39	59	2
12/13/87	49	47	4
12/2/87	35	61	4
9/23/87	43	54	4
6/29/87	35	62	3
4/13/87	37	60	3
3/9/87	38	58	4
1/18/87	39	56	5
9/8/86	50	48	2
1/26/86	45	47	8
7/29/85	52	43	6
1/16/85	59	36	4
5/22/84	47	48	5
12/13/83	43	51	6
11/7/83	51	44	5
4/12/83	41	54	4
3/2/83	43	53	3
10/11/82	35	57	8
1/30/82	39	56	5
2/80*	20	70	10
2/78	34	53	13
2/77	41	44	14
10/75	19	71	9
10/74	15	75	11
10/73	16	74	10

*2/80 and previous: Roper

4. Who do you trust to do a better job handling [ITEM] - (Obama) or (the Republicans in Congress)?

5/19/13 - Summary Table

	Obama	Reps	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. The economy	46	37	1	12	4

Items b through d held for release.

Trend:

a. The economy

	Obama	Reps	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
5/19/13	46	37	1	12	4
3/10/13	44	40	1	11	4
12/16/12	54	36	1	7	1

1/15/12	43	41	1	12	3
12/18/11	44	40	1	13	2
11/3/11	42	42	1	12	2
10/2/11	43	42	1	11	2
9/1/11	42	39	1	16	2
6/5/11	42	45	2	9	2
3/13/11	46	34	2	15	4
1/16/11	46	41	3	7	3
12/12/10	44	45	2	7	2
4/25/10	49	38	1	9	2
2/8/10	47	42	1	7	2
12/13/09	48	36	1	12	3
11/15/09	52	37	1	8	1
9/12/09	48	37	1	12	2
7/18/09	56	33	1	9	2
6/21/09	55	31	2	9	2
4/24/09	61	24	2	11	2
3/29/09	58	25	1	14	2
2/22/09	61	26	1	9	3

5. Compared with his first term, do you think that in his second term Obama will be able to do more of what he wants to do, less, or about the same amount?

	More	Less	About the same	No opinion
5/19/13	30	27	40	3

6. Overall do you think Obama has done more to (unite the country), or has done more to (divide the country)?

	Unite	Divide	No opinion
5/19/13	47	45	8

Bush:

	Unite	Divide	No opinion
6/5/05	43	55	2
9/8/04 RV	48	44	8
8/29/04 RV	47	48	5
4/18/04	50	48	2
3/7/04	48	49	3
12/21/03	58	36	6

7. Do you think Obama is mainly concentrating on things that are important to you personally, or on things that are not important to you personally?

	Important to you	Not important to you	No opinion
5/19/13	51	44	4

Bush:

	Important to you	Not important to you	No opinion
6/5/05	41	58	1
12/15/02	52	45	3
7/15/02	53	44	3
7/30/01	45	53	2

8. How about the [ITEM] - do you think they are mainly concentrating on things that are important to you personally, or on things that are not important to you personally?

5/19/13 - Summary Table

	Important to you	Not important to you	No opinion
a. Republicans in Congress	33	60	7
b. Democrats in Congress	43	50	8

Trend:

a. Republicans in Congress

	Important to you	Not important to you	No opinion
5/19/13	33	60	7
6/5/05	39	59	2

b. Democrats in Congress

	Important to you	Not important to you	No opinion
5/19/13	43	50	8
6/5/05	46	53	2

9. Thinking about Hillary Clinton, overall do you approve or disapprove of the way she handled her job as secretary of state? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
5/19/13	62	38	24	28	9	20	9
12/2/12*	68	35	33	22	9	13	10

***is handling**

Compare to:

		Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2/25/07	Condoleeza Rice	58	31	10
12/19/04	Donald Rumsfeld	35	53	12
11/24/97	Madeleine Albright	56	12	32 CBS
11/4/93	Warren Christopher	41	28	31 Gallup
10/10/93	Warren Christopher	35	26	39 Gallup
3/21/82	Alexander Haig	49	35	16
10/18/81	Alexander Haig	26	17	57
3/31/81	Alexander Haig	45	33	23

10. Changing topics, in general do you think the federal government is doing more to (protect) the rights of average Americans or more to (threaten) the rights of average Americans? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Protect -----			----- Threaten -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
5/19/13	38	18	20	54	11	43	8

11. Now thinking about the economy, in terms of your own personal experience, do you feel the economy has or has not begun to recover?

	Has	Has not	No opinion
5/19/13	56	43	1
3/10/13	53	46	2
12/16/12*	53	45	2
3/10/12	49	49	2

1/15/12	45	54	1
11/3/11	36	63	1
6/5/11	42	57	1
3/13/11	46	53	1
12/12/10	41	57	2
10/5/10	34	63	2
2/8/10	45	53	1
12/13/09**	50	49	1
11/15/09	44	54	1

*12/16/12 to 12/13/09: "Regardless of whether or not the recession is over..."

**ABC News/Yahoo! News

12. Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel (optimistic) or (pessimistic) about [ITEM]? Is that very optimistic/pessimistic, or somewhat? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

5/19/13 - Summary Table

	--- Optimistic ---			--- Pessimistic ---			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Smwt.	Very	
a. The state of the national economy	53	20	33	41	17	24	5
b. Your own family's financial situation	66	32	34	29	14	15	5
c. The chances that Obama and the Republicans in Congress will work together on important issues	32	13	19	64	19	45	4

Trend:

a. The state of the national economy

	----- Optimistic -----			----- Pessimistic -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
5/19/13	53	20	33	41	17	24	5
12/16/12	48	15	33	49	21	28	3
3/10/12	49	18	30	48	20	28	3
12/18/11	44	14	30	52	25	27	5
4/24/09	55	NA	NA	42	NA	NA	3
2/22/09	48			50			2
12/14/08	48			50			3
9/29/08	43			53			4
4/13/08	40			58			2
2/1/08	45			51			4
12/9/07	45			52			3
12/11/06	64			33			3
5/15/06	52			46			1
12/18/05	55			44			1
9/11/05	51			46			2
6/5/05	59			40			1
12/19/04	58			40			2
6/20/04	64			34			2
1/18/04	63	"	"	35	"	"	2

b. Your own family's financial situation

	----- Optimistic -----			----- Pessimistic -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
5/19/13	66	32	34	29	14	15	5
12/16/12	66	30	36	30	16	14	4

3/10/12	66	28	39	30	16	14	4
12/18/11	61	23	38	35	19	16	4
4/24/09	66	NA	NA	31	NA	NA	3
2/22/09	66			31			3
12/14/08	68			29			2
9/29/08 RV	62			35			4
4/13/08	65			32			3
2/1/08	67			30			3
12/9/07	72			25			3
12/11/06	82			16			2
5/15/06	79			20			1
12/18/05	73			26			1
12/19/04	75	"	"	23	"	"	2

c. The chances that Obama and the Republicans in Congress will work together on important issues

	----- Optimistic -----			----- Pessimistic -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
5/19/13	32	13	19	64	19	45	4
12/16/12	46	14	32	51	22	29	3
1/16/11*	55	22	33	43	18	25	2
1/5/11*	48	14	34	46	27	19	6

*"Strongly" instead of "very"; 1/5/11 ABC News/Yahoo! News

13. Automatic across-the-board cuts in federal spending have begun to take effect because Obama and the Republicans in Congress were unable to reach a budget agreement earlier this year. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of these budget cuts taking place? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/19/13	35	16	20	56	18	39	8
4/14/13	35	16	19	57	20	37	8
3/10/13*	39	16	23	53	19	34	8

*"last week"

14. Have you personally felt any negative impact of these budget cuts, or not? (IF YES) Has it been a major impact or minor?

	----- Yes -----				No
	NET	Major	Minor	No	opinion
5/19/13	37	18	19	61	2
4/14/13	33	17	16	65	2
3/10/13	25	14	11	73	2

Questions 15 through 24 held for release.

25. On another subject, Republicans in Congress have criticized the way the Obama administration handled the attack that killed a U.S. ambassador in Benghazi, Libya last fall. Do you think Republicans in Congress are (raising legitimate concerns), or are they (just political posturing)?

	Raising legitimate concerns	Just political posturing	Both (vol.)	No opinion
5/19/13	44	45	2	9

26. Do you think the Obama administration (is honestly disclosing what it knows about what occurred in Benghazi) or (is trying to cover up the facts)?

	Is honestly disclosing what it knows	Is trying to cover up the facts	No opinion
5/19/13	33	55	13

27. On another subject, as you may know it's been disclosed that the Internal Revenue Service singled out some conservative political groups for extra questions about their tax status. Do you think it was appropriate or inappropriate for the IRS to do this? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Appropriate -----			----- Inappropriate -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
5/19/13	20	11	9	74	17	57	7

28. (IF INAPPROPRIATE) Given what you know, do you think this was illegal, or inappropriate, but not illegal?

	Illegal	Inappropriate but not illegal	No opinion
5/19/13	51	44	5

29/30 NET:

	----- Appropriate -----			----- Inappropriate -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
5/19/13	20	74	37	32	4	7	

29. Do you think this extra focus on conservative political groups by the IRS was (a deliberate effort to harass these groups) or (an administrative mistake that was not intended to treat these groups unfairly)?

	A deliberate effort to harass these groups	An administrative mistake	No opinion
5/19/13	56	31	13

30. In dealing with this situation with the IRS, do you think the Obama administration (is honestly disclosing what it knows about what occurred) or (is trying to cover up the facts)?

	Is honestly disclosing what it knows	Is trying to cover up the facts	No opinion
5/19/13	42	45	13

31. As you may know, the Associated Press reported classified information about U.S. anti-terrorism efforts, and federal prosecutors have obtained AP's phone records through a court order to try to find the source of this information. Do you think this action by federal prosecutors is or is not justified? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Justified -----			----- Not justified -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
5/19/13	52	25	26	33	13	21	15

32. More generally, how concerned are you that in trying to protect classified information the federal government will improperly intrude on the freedom of the press - very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not concerned at all?

	----- Concerned -----			--- Not concerned ---			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	At all	opinion
5/19/13	69	32	37	29	18	11	2

Question 33 held for release.

34. On another subject, what is your view of the Tea Party political movement - would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat or oppose it strongly?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/19/13	40	10	30	43	21	22	17
8/25/12	44	13	31	42	18	24	14
8/5/12*	41	12	29	46	19	27	13
4/8/12	41	12	29	45	21	24	14
3/10/12	44	15	29	43	17	26	13
2/4/12	43	12	31	45	20	25	12
1/15/12	40	13	28	50	23	27	10
12/18/11	42	13	28	45	20	26	13
11/3/11	43	14	29	44	20	24	13
10/2/11	42	12	30	47	20	27	11
9/1/11	47	13	35	45	18	27	8
7/17/11	44	13	31	46	23	24	10
6/5/11	46	13	33	44	21	24	10
4/17/11	42	16	26	49	21	27	10

*Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other (vol.)	No opinion
5/19/13	33	22	38	5	2
5/19/13 RV	33	22	38	5	1
4/14/13	33	23	36	5	3
3/10/13	33	25	35	5	2
1/13/13	33	24	37	5	1
12/16/12	31	24	38	4	4
11/4/12	33	25	34	4	5
11/4/12 RV	33	27	35	3	2
11/4/12 LV	35	29	32	3	1
10/13/12	33	22	37	4	4
9/29/12	31	25	36	5	3
9/9/12	33	23	37	4	3
8/25/12	31	22	39	6	3
7/8/12	33	24	36	4	3
5/20/12	32	22	38	7	2
4/18/12	34	23	34	5	3
3/10/12	31	27	36	3	3
2/12/12	34	23	37	5	1
1/15/12	32	25	36	5	2

*** END ***